

A NEW DIRECTION

1608 N. Cahuenga Bl., Suite 440
Los Angeles, CA 90028
(213) 874-8424

We would like to introduce you to our magazine: *A New Direction*, and two pamphlets. **We would appreciate it if you would place us on your list of resources for members of the Mormon Church.** Please encourage people to call the above phone number (or write) to request information.

There are many people who are struggling with the issue of sexual orientation, and this is especially true for Mormons (many of whom seem to be especially troubled). Our magazine and pamphlets help those who are gay, lesbian, or bisexual foster a greater understanding and acceptance by themselves, their families and friends. It also helps prevent suicide by very depressed gays and lesbians who have nowhere (including the Church) to turn for support. Homosexuality affects many Mormons (either directly or as family members or friends), most of whom *really* don't understand or know much about it. *A New Direction* is very good in educating those willing to learn. It has already been of great value to many people and would be of value to Mormons you come into contact with. We do not have any age restrictions. We don't ask and don't care how old someone is, we just want to help those who need and request it.

In addition to helping gay/lesbian/bisexual Mormons, we have a program that helps to educate NON-gay (lay) members of the Church on this issue, including those who have no direct (known) contact with gay Mormons. It is through this effort that we hope to get many Church members talking about the issue, thereby eventually causing the Mormon hierarchy to study it, something they have refused to do thus far. We *also* send our magazine to the fifteen highest ranking officials of the Church.

We are enclosing information on all magazine issues published to date, to give you a good idea of the subjects we cover. All articles have a message for Mormons, including those about other churches. Although they are primarily published for Mormons, our publications are also useful for those in other religions, *especially* fundamentalism (which is very similar in belief on this issue). All of the issues described are available individually or as part of a subscription. (Please note that it is NOT necessary for "you" to call our number to request information as what you will receive by calling is already enclosed with this letter.) **You are welcome to reproduce the enclosed material as you find necessary.**

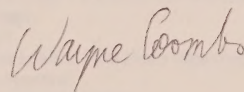
A New Direction is supported entirely by subscriptions and single copy sales. We do not accept advertising of any kind. Due to the cost of printing and mailing the magazine, we are unable to provide "free" samples (although we wish we could) so we send the enclosed "sampler" to those who request information. At the present time we publish bi-monthly, but expect to soon increase the frequency, eventually becoming monthly.

We currently have two pamphlets available:

- 1) *An LDS Perspective on Homosexuality and Scripture* (70 pages)
- 2) *Prologue: An Examination of the Mormon Attitude Towards Homosexuality* (70 pages)

We do NOT do counseling, have meetings, and are not an organization. This is an advantage as the LDS Church frowns on Mormons being members of organizations that are in opposition to any of its "doctrines." Our publications are especially suitable for gays, lesbians and bisexuals to give to their relatives and friends in the Church (even in those situations where the relatives or friends are Mormon and they are not).

Thank you for your support.



Wayne Coombs

A New Direction

1608 N. Cahuenga Bl., Suite 440, Los Angeles, CA 90028

"A New Direction" is a 32-page bi-monthly magazine that will provide you with interesting reading while helping you learn more about your gay and lesbian brothers and sisters in the LDS Church. Each issue contains informative articles and news on a variety of subjects. Our goal is to educate LDS gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and straights (including - but not limited to - families and friends) on this misunderstood and increasingly important issue within the Church. In addition to our outreach to gays and lesbians, we are making a major effort to reach the "non-gay" member of the Church (of which you may be one).

We also send our magazine to the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve, in the hope that by doing so it will some day spark a study of this issue at the highest levels of the Church.

If you are a writer, we invite you to submit articles for publication consideration. Our experience to date is that we use most of what we receive, although it may take a while to appear, depending on space availability.

We do not accept advertising of any kind. Subscriptions and single copy sales are our sole source of income to produce the magazine and get the word out that it is available.

We would like to be able to provide free sample copies of the magazine but the cost of printing and mailing does not allow us to do so.

Single copies are \$5 each (specify issue #). A subscription (6 issues) is \$25 (add \$20 for each additional 6). You may start at any issue you desire (including #1). Please keep in mind that we expect to increase the frequency of issue in 1995, eventually becoming monthly. All subscriptions are based on the number of issues, not length of time.

The following is a list of the articles in all issues of "A New Direction" published to date (all are available). Please remember that all articles have relevance (or a message) for Mormons, even those about other churches.

Issue 1

-No More Strangers and Foreigners: A Mormon Christian Response to Homosexuality - an essay based on a talk given by Bishop Robert A. Rees at a Sacrament meeting of the Los Angeles First (singles) Ward.

-Gays and the State of Matrimony

-Boy Scouts In a Knot of Disputes

-Books That Can Help Parents Understand Their Gay Children

-Gay Pride - Breaking the Grip of Shame

-A Child Is Listening

-The Road to Revelation Is Sometimes a Long One

-New Challenge of Youth - Growing Up In a Gay Home

-Labeling Homosexuality a Vice Isn't Anyone's Virtue

-Taking Your Next Step

-Was I Born This Way or Is It My Mother's Fault?

-Presbyterians Desperately Need a Sexual Reformation

-Utah Gay and Lesbian Pride Day

-Common Sense

-Gay People Ask to Be Excommunicated From the Mormon Church

-Study Debunks Lesbian Myth

-Only 1 in 4 Families Is "Traditional"

-Toleration (poem by John Barford)

Issue 2

-A Study on Attitudes Toward Homosexuality in the Mormon Church

-Landmark Study Hints at Biological Cause of Homosexuality

-The Good Gay Soldier

-Diamond In the Stuff

-Maybe Baby - Feelings on Being Born a Lesbian

-Bible Doesn't Say What We Thought It Did

-Pioneering Geologist Reveals Personal Struggle With Homosexuality

-Ambisexuality in Animals

-Holidays Can Be Hazardous to Gays and Lesbians

-Teenage Gays - The Invisible Minority

Issue 3

-The Emperor's New Clothes: An Ex-Gay Ministry Fairy Tale

-Peculiar People: Mormons and Same-Sex Orientation

-Homosexuality Issue Threatens National Council of Churches

-Family Values

-Survey of Identical Twins Links Biological Factors With Being Gay

-Mormon Man Comes Out to Be True to Himself

-Adam and Steve

-Using God's Word to Sanctify Bigotry

-FYI: LDS Letter Stresses Sexual Abstinence

-Oh, Those Shallow Hets

-Disciples of Christ Name Interim Leader

-Episcopal Officials See Move by Traditionalists as Step Toward Schism

-Homosexuality is a Divisive Issue Within Churches

-The Power of Prayer

-A Letter to Straights Who Don't Understand What "Rights" Gays are Fighting For

-Wellesley College Employs Lesbians

-Bill of Wrongs

Issue 4

-The Ever-Changing Policies in the Mormon Church

-Gays and Lesbians Are Everywhere

-Blessing of a Covenant: Gays United in Rites In Episcopal Church

-Hellfire and Damnation Fails

-Mormon Homosexuals Struggle to Find Acceptance Within Their Faith

-Family Secrets

-Feeling All Alone? There's Hope In Coming Out

-My Son Can't Be a Scout: A Maine Lesbian's Story

-Tell Laura ... They Took Her Away for Her Own Good

-Scientists Confront Homophobia in Their Ranks

-Homoligious

-Why Young Men Bash Gays

-The Church's Circle of Sex

-75% of HIV Infection in World is Heterosexually Transmitted

-Is 10% Too High?

-Mormon Church Is Asked to Endorse Utah Hate Crimes Bill

-What We're Doing For Gay and Lesbian Youth - Nothing!

-Guess What?

Issue 5

-Why Homosexuality? Can It Serve a Purpose?

-Coming Out

-What of the Homosexual? - a Minister's Concern

-Children, Parents & Being Gay

-What Does It Mean To Be Gay?

-Sexual Ethics

-Passion Vs. Will: Homosexuality in Orson Scott Card's Wyrms

-Science and Heterosexism

-Christopher Street Liberation Day, June 28, 1970 (poem)

-Laura: Her Family Sent Her to a Hospital to Cure Her of Lesbianism

-Mormon Group at University of Virginia Permitted to Discriminate

-Police Double Security For Conference Demonstrations

-Ex-Gay? No Way!

-Are We Family?

-A Hidden Factor in AIDS: Real Men's Hypersexuality

-Acceptance to Approval

-What Is Heterosexual Privilege?

OVER



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026 with funding from
CLIR DHC Grant 2026-2028

<https://archive.org/details/2174.12.21>

Issue 6

- Can Gays Really Love?
- Exposing the Big Lie...Exploring the Bible and What It Really Says About Homosexuality
- The Last of Laura?
- Religion: Shame and Pride
- The Expanded Definitions of Family
- Two Mothers or Two Fathers...and a Baby
- Do Military Gays and Lesbians Deserve Legal Protection?
- A Gay Man's Guide to Coming Out
- God's Retribution?
- Conquering Closet Terror
- Does Incest Make You Gay?
- Suicide, Jehovah's Witnesses and Homosexuality

Issue 7

- Immorality and Being Morally *Straight*
- LDS Church Takes a Stand
- Straight or Gay - Researchers Are Unraveling the Origins Of Homosexuality.
- Deseret Book Releases Book On Homosexuality
- Born That Way?
 - an Irrelevant Answer To an Irrelevant Question
- Her Great Escape
 - the Continuing Saga Of Laura...Final Chapter
- They 'Cure' Queer Kids, Don't They?
- A Place To Call Home - For Lesbians
- Same-Sex Relationships On the Increase
- The Church and Gay Marriage

A New Direction

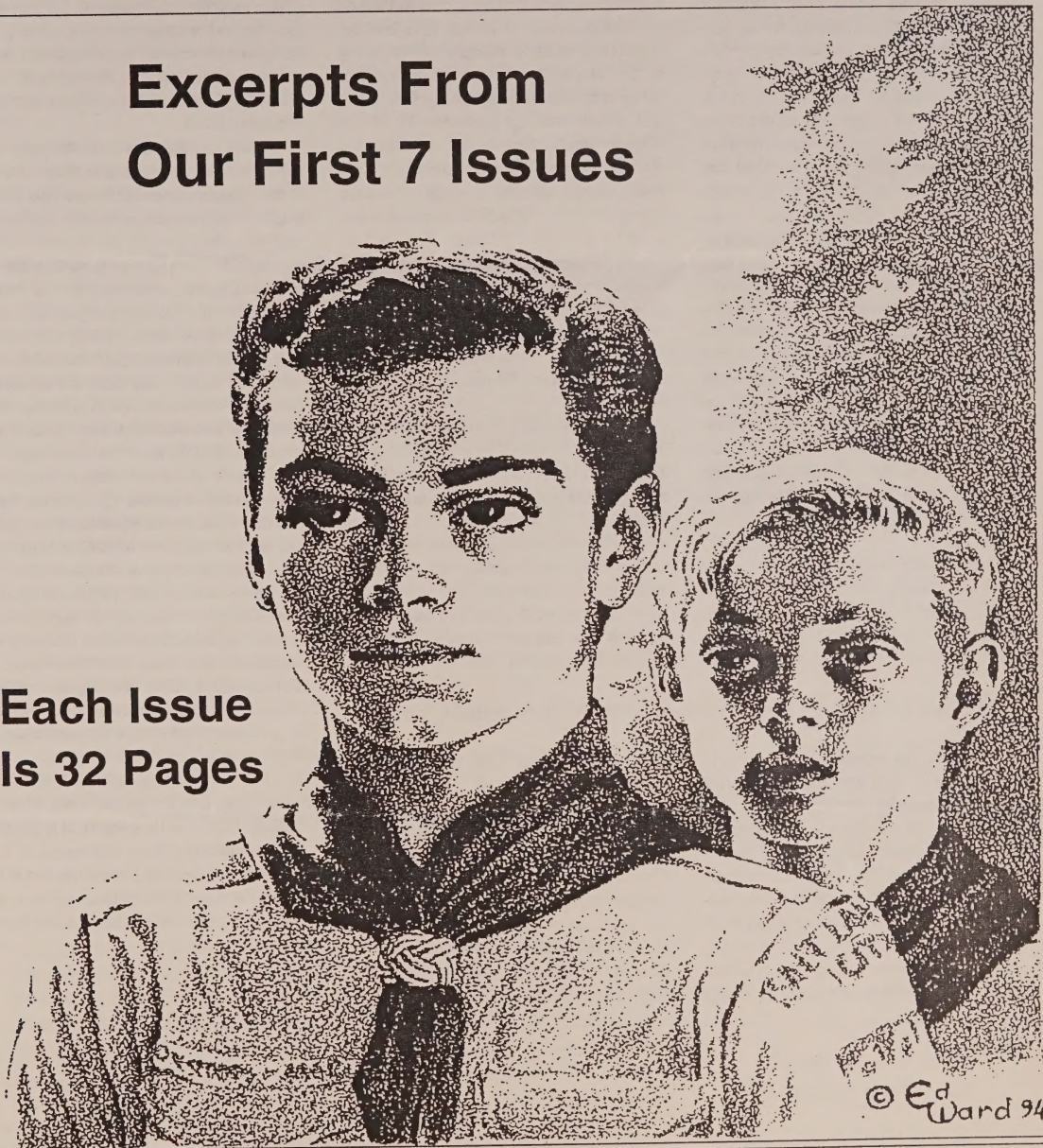
**1608 N. Cahuenga Bl., Suite 440
Los Angeles, CA 90028**

A NEW DIRECTION

Mormons and Homosexuality

**Excerpts From
Our First 7 Issues**

**Each Issue
Is 32 Pages**



...by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

Book of Mormon: Moroni 10:5

No More Strangers and Foreigners: A Mormon Christian Response To Homosexuality

...Instead of condemning homosexuals, Mormon Christians should seriously examine the ways in which they themselves may contribute to the suffering of their gay brothers and lesbian sisters. We are compelled as Christ's disciples to lift the burdens of those who suffer—no matter what their sexual orientation. Speaking of the burdens homosexual Mormons bear, H. Wayne Schow, whose son Brad died of AIDS, has written, "Consider the psychological burden born by Mormon homosexuals in particular. From their youth the seeds of low self-esteem are planted. From both adults and peers they hear the deprecating epithets, the scornful aspersions, the biased misinformation about gays which cause them to feel contemptible. They struggle to understand their differences in an environment which demands conformity. They hide their feelings from the world, even from loved ones, and hate themselves for this deception. They discover that there are laws against homosexual intimacy. They read books written by people who encourage their assumption that they are flawed, mentally ill."

...In addition to accepting and loving homosexuals, I believe we should recognize that they may have something significant to contribute to the culture of the Church. For whatever reasons, many gays and lesbians seem to

have an increased sensitivity to beauty and a more highly developed artistic sense than do most heterosexuals. To exclude them is to deprive ourselves of the richness they can bring to the Church. It also seems to be true that homosexual men have a more gentle, if you will, a more feminine demeanor. While this characteristic is often mocked and derided, a more enlightened view might consider it a potential positive influence on some of the more aggressive aspects of the masculine ethos that tends to dominate the Church. Lest such an idea be dismissed too quickly, one should remember that the Savior often refers to himself in terms that society might consider feminine. As a whole, integrated being who took upon Himself the sins of men and women, he taught us how to balance the masculine and feminine.

When gay and lesbian Latter-day Saints are excluded from the fellowship of the gospel through prejudice or intolerance, when through suicide or disease they are taken prematurely from our midst, we lose something of great value. I believe it is possible to celebrate what homosexual saints can contribute to the Church without compromising gospel principles.... [An essay based on a talk given by Bishop Robert A. Rees at a Sacrament meeting of the Los Angeles First (singles) Ward. - Issue #1]

A Study On Attitudes Toward Homosexuality In the Mormon Church

...Another explanation of homophobia suggests that it is an unreasonable fear that one who is basically heterosexually oriented can somehow be converted to a homosexual orientation. Gramick points out the absurdity of this fear by suggesting that people consider the reverse situation. There also exists the irrational fear that if the homosexual lifestyle became socially acceptable, then same-sex behavior will increase to the point that heterosexual behavior will be eliminated or greatly

reduced, and that it will interfere with the survival of the human species. This is an exaggerated fear of homosexual conversion. Gramick states that knowledge of societies such as the North African Moslems, that are lenient toward homosexual practice among men, report the "highest birth rates and the most serious problems of over-population." Thus in societies that condone homosexual behavior, a heterosexual life-style is still predominant.... [from a 16-page report - Issue #2]

Why Homosexuality - Can It Serve a Purpose?

...Ignoring, if we can for the moment, those who tend to interpret God's word according to what they've decided it's *supposed* to mean, try to take a rational look at what it might

signify if homosexuality is genuinely a natural condition as inborn and predetermined as blue eyes or left-handedness.

It's difficult to think of as *unnatural* something which seems to have existed throughout history in apparently the same proportions as it does today, shows up in animals as often as it does in people, and - were it not for the preju-

The Emperor's New Clothes An Ex-gay Ministry Fairy Tale

...I hope to illustrate how greatly the power of peer pressure weighs on us all. I'm sure each of us has had experiences where we've "gone along with the crowd," unwilling to be true to our own convictions. And that's precisely how the ex-gay movement perpetuates its story. What do I mean?

Much like the weavers in the story who wove a magical, invisible cloth, there are those in the religious community who would offer a magic answer to what they consider the "sin" of homosexuality.

In their attempt to help those they feel are so in need, they've woven together a few threads of truth from psychology, Scripture and other sources. They've tailored a story that sounds appealing to those whose self-esteem has been desperately eroded. They claim that hundreds - thousands - have been healed of the spiritual bondage of homosexuality, although there isn't any evidence of the validity of their story.

There is an element of cleverness in their story, as well - a defense against being found out. They claim that, once you'd seen the "cloth" they have woven, you'd be foolish, or unfit for God's Kingdom, if you don't believe it.

In my emotionally vulnerable state, I wanted to believe they held the answer. And, like the Emperor, I had a vested interest in appearances. I didn't want to be unworthy. More than anything, I wanted the acceptance of God, certainly, and also those around me. I was sure I'd get neither if the truth of my homosexuality were known.

But like the honest officials in the story, when I met those who had claimed to be "healed," I didn't see the evidence of it. But they spoke eloquently of their deliverance. In fact, the sharing of such testimonies was one of the central activities at conventions, seminars and workshops conducted by groups across the nation.... [Issue #3]

dices of society - would cause these people as little pain as it does those animals. Anything occurring naturally has to be considered, by those who believe in a God who presumably planned the pattern of His world, a part of that plan - whether we understand it or not.... [Issue #5]

The Ever-Changing Policies In the Mormon Church

...Perhaps it is useful to remember the words of the Prophet Joseph Smith, in whom we must all, if we consider ourselves Mormon to any degree, place at least a little trust. He himself stated that, "What is wrong at one time can be, and often is, right at another." Was that statement only true at one time and not at another?

I remember seeing on the news a segment about a white Latter-day Saint excommunicated for baptizing and then ordaining to the priesthood a black man. The white member of the Church had hoped to bring about change and was promptly cast out. That wasn't the appropriate way to bring change.

Of course, some of us have forgotten that incident in the years since then because it seems odd to think that someone could be excommunicated for doing what now happens routinely in the Church. What the man wanted was not wrong and was in fact accepted very shortly thereafter. But why did the Church's policy change so soon afterward? Did the man and the adverse publicity force the Church to action? Public reaction to polygamy was certainly the driving force behind that policy change. But the Church can't really operate like that, can it? There's no doubt that the Church never faced pressure on the race issue anywhere near as strongly as it did on polygamy. And, too, the Church has already faced at least as much pressure on the gay issue as it ever did on the black issue, and the Church has remained steadfast, so pressure alone is not an answer.

Clearly the leaders won't change no matter what the pressure unless they feel it is right to do so, and if that were not the case, they'd

hardly be worth following in the first place. It was hearing different ideas and thinking about them that finally brought a change on the priesthood question. But since homophobia is so much more deeply rooted, and society in general is still very unaccepting, there is no *public* pressure for change, only pressure from the outcast, which really isn't that much pressure after all. Again, it's not that pressure can force a change, but it can force the General Authorities to at least begin talking seriously among themselves about the issue. Elder Packer and other General Authorities publicly admit they don't understand the issue of homosexuality, and these are the people who are supposed to convince each other in debate on policy changes?...

When the policy changes, some people will murmur... because leaders, too, have an emotional stake in believing that the rules are as they should be. Otherwise, they have to consider that they may have been hurting people needlessly. But that is the conclusion they had to come to in 1978, and they were able to change their hurtful, unnecessary priesthood policy [on blacks] without *losing face*. As soon as they can open their minds to really discuss the gay issue, and can find a way to *save face* yet another time, I fully believe that they will do so. And the Church will go on. People will adapt and life will continue.

In the meantime, though, life doesn't go on for hundreds of thousands of gays and lesbians.... And I hope the General Authorities will come to realize one day that we truly don't need rules for every aspect of our lives, that the Lord really doesn't mind if the members make some of these decisions on their own. [Issue #4]

Immorality and Being Morally Straight

...Sexual play was so much a part of what all the boys were doing that it was indulged in during slide presentations, movies, late-evening parties at Black Rock Beach ... any situation where darkness permitted a modicum of cover. No one seemed particularly ashamed of it, either. I saw no evidence of emotional trauma.

It seems odd in remembrance, but I was not the one who initiated the activity in which I participated ... though I was certainly not reluctant. Being the oddball in the troop, I didn't have the kind of nerve it would have required to make the first move with a bigger, stronger kid

who, if he'd been offended at the idea, might have flattened my nose by way of refusal. I didn't start it, and I was not the only *active* partner. It was always a give-and-take, your-turn/my-turn situation. In fact, if there were any rules at all, the most important was that each participant went just as far as the other did. This assured that neither was any more vulnerable than the other to recriminations and tale-telling. That was part of the youthful concept that all things should be *fair*.

Perhaps our troop was unique. I don't know. From what other people have told me, I

Can Gays Really Love?

...My question, though, is why Church leaders find it necessary to lie in order to get people to follow them? If it is really wrong to be gay, aren't there real reasons they can give? We're not idiots, for goodness' sake. We certainly can tell if we love someone or not, especially after twenty years. We can't be fooled forever by misinformation. If Church leaders could trust us with the truth, maybe we'd respond by believing them.

Are these leaders afraid for gay members to realize they can experience love in a gay relationship? How can they expect us to make a real choice if they don't give us all the information? It's like Lucy Ricardo, when she didn't want her husband enrolling their son in nursery school, saying she'd let her son "choose" for himself, then turning to him with her nose all wrinkled up. "You don't want to go to any nasty old school, do you, Ricky?" That's a choice? Are Church leaders so afraid the members won't make the right choice that they feel they must give us false information to sway us?

"Suppose you lost your reason," said President Kimball. "Would vicious men still want you?"

When Michael's spouse, Wayne, suffered a massive cerebral aneurism, Michael took off work and remained by Wayne's side in the hospital every day for a week, until Wayne died, having never regained consciousness. I guess Michael couldn't stop hoping for one last orgasm with his sex partner, who he couldn't care less about otherwise.

And Church leaders have no concept that they're pushing us away from them by saying these ridiculous, deeply hurtful things? That's it! Church leaders aren't trying to get us to *stay* in the Church by saying these things. They're trying to get us to *leave*.... [Issue #6]

doubt it....

If what occurred in those years I was a Scout was truly *not* that unusual, it makes today's discrimination even more than just hypocritical, because the Scouters who are doing that discriminating now are of the generation which entered Scouting at the same time I did, and experienced the same things I did.... [Issue #7]

Name _____
(first) (last)

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____ Phone Number _____
(area) (number)

SUBSCRIPTION [6 issues per year]

A. ____ 6 issues ____ 12 issues ____ 18 issues

B. ____ New ____ Renewal

S

C. Additional Donation (if any): \$ _____

D. Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

E. Make Check Payable to:
Mail to:

A New Direction
1608 N. Cahuenga Blvd., Suite 440
Los Angeles, CA 90028

Note: Subscriptions will begin with the current issue unless a different issue is specified here (you may backdate as far as desired):

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	<u>6 issues</u>	<u>12 issues</u>	<u>18 issues</u>
North America	25.00	45.00	65.00
All Other Countries	35.00	65.00	95.00

SINGLE COPIES

[Enclose \$ 5.00 for each issue (\$ 7.00 outside North America)]

All back issues are available.
For index, send self-addressed,
stamped envelope.

Please describe each issue desired (use issue number or article name):

____ Sample Copy ONLY (specific issue not important)

PAMPHLETS

____ An LDS Perspective on Homosexuality and Scripture (70 pages) (\$ 4.95)

____ Prologue: An Examination of the Mormon Attitude on Homosexuality (70 pages) (\$ 4.95)

(all prices include postage)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

We educate gay, lesbian, and bisexual Mormons, their families and friends, and others "who would like to know more" about gay, lesbian, and bisexual issues, especially as it relates to Mormonism and religion. We encourage you to study the issues and then seek answers from the Lord through prayer (see Moroni 10:5). Your support through subscriptions and other contributions helps us in our outreach efforts.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

We encourage the submission of articles and papers that would be of interest to our readership, which includes gays, lesbians, and non-gays who "would like to know more."

Articles and papers may be submitted without regard to the sexual orientation of the submitter. Please observe the following guidelines when making submissions:

Computer Disk

- * 3-1/2" or 5-1/4", double or high density, any MAJOR word-processing program, or text file (ASCII).
- * IBM, MAC, or Apple compatible.
- * Include a printed copy of the disk for reference (if possible).

Non-Computer Disk

- * Prefer printed or typed (double-spaced), but will accept any format (including hand-printing if that is all you have available).

Reprints

- * Must be original or photocopy of original.
- * Include source and date.

All submissions are subject to editing as needed, but will retain your thoughts and ideas. We will be happy to send you a copy of the edited article for your approval (on request). Submissions are non-returnable unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope at the time of submission. All submitters must identify themselves but may withhold their identity in print upon request.

GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS

For each gift subscription to a NEW subscriber, we will extend your subscription by an extra issue.

Our mailing list is confidential and is not shared with anyone. Issues are sent in a plain envelope with only our return address showing.

A NEW DIRECTION is published bi-monthly.

Comments, suggestions, and ideas are always welcome. Letters are subject to possible publication (names will be withheld unless requested otherwise).